TIMBER TALK

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Hello everybody!

On behalf of all the members of our Association, I would like to offer our sympathies to the family of Wally Pattengill, from Texas. Wally was a long-time member of CAWMC. He passed away in November 2020.

I would like to wish a warm welcome to Ariana C, from Toronto. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter Ariana, and that we can meet you in person soon. I also want to congratulate one of our member Steven Peterson, who recently became president of the IOWMC. Good luck in your new function Steven.

Due to the cancellation of this year's Ontario Numismatic Association convention, we have been offered to host a Zoom meeting as a replacement for the in person meeting usually hosted by the Southern Ontario Chapter of CAWMC. Our time is Saturday, April 10, 2021 at 11:15 am. The program and details of how to access the Zoom meeting will be available in the April issue of *Timber Talk*. All our members are invited.

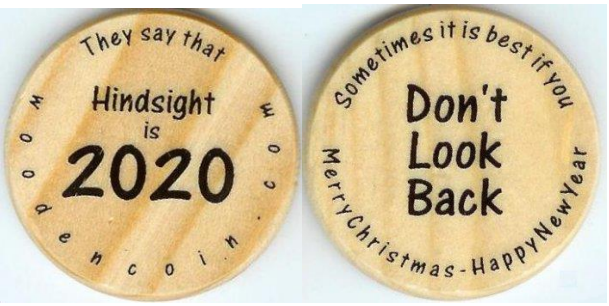
In this issue, read about Jim Smith's interesting take on the woods he produces; and on a research about the ownership of a garage advertised on a wood. You also may want to know who came up with the production of the package of woods most of us receive in December of each year. Another segment of Woods of the World precedes two stories from my area, one of local royalty and the other one, on hardships and dangers of living in the wild in early 1800" s.

We must say goodbye to the members that did not renew their subscription for 2021 but know that you will be welcomed back anytime! If you simply forgot to renew, please contact Al Munro, at the address to your left.

I hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter and will think of contributing and article of your own sometime. It will be appreciated and will earn a thank you wood to boot!

France

Featured Wood of the Month



The Featured Wood of the Month is offered by Jim Smith, of Likely BC. Jim printed 200 of these woods. As his website, woodencoin.com indicates, Jim issues lovely wooden coins using *the finest plank-cut wood coins from BC Beetle Kill Pine. These coins feel as slick as they look due to a coat of Non-Toxic Washable Lacquer which seals the image within for eternity. These 45 mm diameter (1¾ inch) x 4.75 mm thick (1/5 inch) wood coins are printed with single colour black to display the unique information, message, and (image) one wishes to capture and echo through time.*

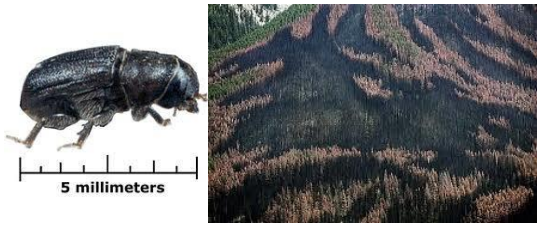
When asked about the particulars of this wood, Jim wrote:

"The "Hindsight is 2020" coin was a product of several attempts at printing a COVID coin. I could not lay-up an image that I would print with the word COVID within it. We print a Naughty/Nice coin and usually a Christmas/ New Years coin as each year winds down. I then give these coins out through December. Once I pulled back and took in a wider view, I realized that 2020 is synonymous with COVID. After that "Hindsight is 2020" came to me almost instantly.

I aim that the coins we produce for handouts invoke humour and induce smiles. I can not print "COVID" yet we do have a beautiful Vimy Ridge Coin. It displays a maple leaf image I traced from a photo of the thousands of tombstones which cobblestone Europe. Vimy Ridge was not exactly a humorous slapstick festival, yet we produced a coin. I can only conclude that Wood Coins are similar to humour, "Tragedy plus Time". Hopefully, the day will be soon that we can print a COVID coin in retrospect."

Thank you to Jim for this beautiful wood. When I visited the website, which is representative of Jim's views on humour and conservation, I had to laugh at the following (bittersweet) remark:

"*Pine must be the best wood of choice, for billions of Pine Beetles can't be wrong*."



France

Milverton Garage

by **Judy Blackman**, CAWMC Life Member, FONA, KStE

This 1975 38 mm round wood has black ink on both sides, has a rarity rating of 1, and is 5515-001 in Norm Belsten's catalogue. There was 1,000 of these woods produced.

The obverse reads "FORD ANNIVERSARY SHELL 1925-1975" around the outside and in the centre is "50th". Now what's not clear is if this is the 50th Anniversary of Milverton Garage, Shell Gas Stations or Ford. Shell did have a station in Milverton at the time. Ford cars came out before this; however, the Ford truck (F-150) was patented at this time. Shell started business in Canada in 1911. So maybe this is the garage's anniversary, and they are simply signifying they sell Shell products for Ford, who knows?

The introduction of the automobile into Canada in the late 19th century created a need for new building types and designs. Garages replaces stables. Parking lots replaced hitching posts. But the building-type which has become the cultural icon of the automobile age is undoubtedly the gasoline (gas) station. The enormous popularity of the automobile created a rapidly expanding market for gasoline (a previously unimportant petroleum by-product produced by companies making kerosene for illumination and lubricants for machinery) and led to the development of new and specialized building type — the gas station. The evolution of gas station architecture reflects both changing functional requirements and changing cultural attitudes. By 1925 most stations were equipped with grease pits and car washing floors and these new functions were accommodated by adding one or more bays to traditional designs.

The reverse reads "MILVERTON GARAGE LTD. 27 Main St. N. Milverton, Ontario". Today, this business is Koertland AutoPro (although the front of the building reads NAPA AUTOPRO KOERTLAND @ MILVERTON GARAGE and the President and Board Member is Leonard Reis. I don't believe the Reis family owned this garage in 1975; but I do think I know which family did. In looking at the building, it looks like offices or apartments are on the second floor. The bottom floor has updated doors and windows, but the façade of the upper building looks like it may be an early 1900's building.

I could not find building records to verify when it was built. Koertland Auto Pro advertises services such as: Tires, Suspension, Transmission, Air Conditioning, Brake Service & Repairs, Preventive Maintenance, and Car Warranty. The address is now actually shown as 27 Main St. N, Perth East, Ontario, rather than Milverton. Leonard E. Reis was born on August 1, 1935. If the 1925-1975 dates refer to the garage operation, Leonard could have operated it at some point.

Now on to who I believe were the owners of the Milverton Garage Ltd. at the time this wood was issued. Paul Coxon posted this picture of his Uncle H. Orvel Coxon (1919-1984, a WWII veteran) minding the shop at the Shell station, in the early 70s. Bradley Coxon who is related to Orvel owns Coxon's Towing. Below is the picture of Orvel at the station. I also found the following business card:

George James Coxon (1877-1968) owned G. J. Coxon & Sons and the business card reads: "AUTOMOTIVE PARTS AND ACCESSORIES, SHELL GAS — OILS — ETC., HARNESS — WIRE FENCING GARAGE PHONE (...) MILVERTON".

George James Coxon married Sarah Jane Kerr (1881-1962) — *pictured in group left*. George was predeceased by his parents Aaron Coxon (1844-1919) and Margaret Ann Coxon (nee Ranney) (1847-1924). George had two siblings, sister Elizabeth A. Atkin (1874-1953) and brother Robert Henry Coxon (1879-1958). George and Sarah had three children, daughter Jean Elizabeth Bundscho (1922-2015), and the two sons who worked in the business, William Kerr Coxon (1909-1983) and Melville George Coxon (1911-2002). By 1975 when the wood was issued, George was deceased by 7 years, William was 66 and Melville was 64. It's possible the sons were still working in the business then. I could not find where any William, Melville nor Jean's children worked in auto mechanics.

I also wonder if possibly Leonard Reis was an employee at G. J. Coxon & Sons and then bought the business from them, but I simply cannot locate any records.

If anybody has any contradictory or additional information about this wood, please send it to France Waychison for publication in a future issue of the *Timber Talk* newsletter.

Judy

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Chips from the Woodpile …. By Dave Gillespie

Stanley Banner wrote an article in 1993 for the A.P.N.A. newsletter, Atlantic Tree Talk which helps to show the kindness and generosity of wooden money collectors. "I was working in the yard, when I noticed my neighbour's boy moping around, looking pretty sad. I asked him why he was so sad, and he informed me that his class is going to the B.C. Museum in Victoria, B.C. shortly, and he cannot go as his father is out of work and they cannot afford the $10.00 for the bus fare. I called him over and went to my basement, made up a shoe box with a sign, 'Help me to go with my class to Victoria, B.C., make a donation and take a prize'. Perhaps he could go around the school and see if other pupils could help. As it happens it was parent's day next day, by noon all forty wooden nickels and trade dollars had gone. About one-thirty, the boy and his Dad arrived at my door in a state of shock, I thought he might have picked up $10.00 or $15.00 at most, he had collected $ 112.00. His Dad did not want to keep the money, however I persuaded him to put the money in the bank for future reference. Sometimes you get it right and it makes you feel good."

Later that year, Canada Wide Woods was appointed as "Official" issuer of woods for both the 1994 O.N.A. and C.N.A. The O.N.A. woods would feature the historic David Gibson House constructed in 1851, the oldest home in North York. The C.N.A. Convention medal and woods would feature the Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo Railway Steam Engine as it's central theme. The Steam Engine, built in 1894 was a strategic link between the cities.

Pat White, President of C.A.W.M.C. in 1994 made his views known to members with letter to the Editor for publication in Timber Talk. Pat believed that all collectors had a responsibility to promote the hobby and as President reached out to the editor of the Dedicated Wooden Money Collectors to publish in its newsletter the upcoming All Wooden Money Show scheduled for Niagara Fall in June. The editor refused stating that it was a breach of their rules and that even though Pat White was a member in good standing C.A.W.M.C. was not. In protest to bureaucracy, foolish politics, silly rule and based on principle he refused to renew his membership with D.W.M.C.

Lou Vesh is always thinking and in 1994, as the editor of Timber Talk came up with another great idea to help with his job and benefit C.A.W.M.C. members by taking a letter size piece of corrugated cardboard and drilling 12 holes (each the size of a wooden nickel) in each sheet then gluing paper to the outsides to provide protection for the monthly free woods being mailed to members annually. These cardboard holders provided protection for the woods and eliminated breakage through the Post Office. This method of cutting cardboard, drilling holes and distribution of free monthly woods is still being used by Ross Kingdon today.

The C.A.W.M.C. Breakfast meeting held at the 1994 C.N.A. was well attended and through door draw ticket sales, auction benefits and donated wood sale the Treasurer went home with almost $500.00.

Seeing is Believing! Although the word "bastard" is found in any good dictionary, it does have an unpleasant connotation and mostly due to the historical misuse. A wood was produced and issued by Bastard Township located north of Gananoque, Ontario and a related article appeared in a 1994 newsletter. The Township got the name from John Bastard and understandably there was controversy over whether the name should be changed. Ratepayer, Kenny Rogers opposed to a change due to overall administrative costs had buttons made that read: "Proud To Be A Bastard". It didn't take long for the buttons to become a hit and over 2300 buttons were sold with the proceeds being donated to a local school. In the fall of 1994, the "Bastard Buck" was still available from the township at 50 cents each.

The Gold Rush days of the 1890's was brought to the forefront in the December 1994 issue of the Timber Talk. During the Gold Rush over 100,000 prospectors travelled to the Yukon in search of riches. The gold rush attracted a lot more that just miners. By chance, would you know anything about Diamond Tooth Gertie? Do you remember if you might have hung a picture of her on your bedroom wall as a kid? Or have you ever read anything in your history books about this fine lady from the North? Well to fill you in, back in the 1890's Dawson City, Yukon was thriving and growing rapidly as a result of gold being found in nearby Bonanza Creek. Prospectors rushed to the area in search of riches. Diamond Tooth Gertie Lovejoy, nicknamed for the diamond worn between her front teeth was a well-known Dance Hall Girl, charging one U.S. dollar for a dance. She could drink whisky with the best of them and it was rumored that she helped many a miner part with his riches. A wood was issued in 1990, one hundred years later, in her memory and as a casino souvenir.

AND now for another quiz question: ***In what city is the Alexandria Hotel located?***

'Til next time …… Let the Chips lie where they fall. Dave Gillespie

Answer to the Chips Question from January 2021

Q: ***Who had a wood made in 1965 by "The Village Mint"?***

A: Bob Aaron, Toronto, Ontario – wood # 5900-001a and 5900-001b

The Foreign Corner…….Woods of the World by Vic Agha

From Editor: Vic has recently updated his file on woods of the world so we are revisiting one of them previously presented without picture, and introducing a new one, slightly out of sequence (Douglas Fir). The other woods presented will be in alphabetical order, following Vic's list.

Apple. An NTCA article mentioned that a hotel in Iowa, after cutting down a few apple trees, gave out slices of them as trade tokens. With a regular pen, they wrote on the slices that they were good for $5 in trade.

Douglas fir. These wooden quarters were issued by the Monticello, NY Chamber of Commerce in 1938. As stamped on the sides of these large things, they are made of super harbord, a type of plywood developed in 1934 from douglas fir trees.

Additionally, MacMillan Bloedel Limited issued douglas fir plywood tokens, and there are doubtlessly others that did as well. I suspect the Pacific Logging Congress wood badges are made from slices of douglas fir.

Oak barrel. Miller Brewing Company, situated in Milwaukee, offers free tours of their brewery. At the end of the tour, they would give out these tokens, printed on oak barrel planchets, that were redeemable for a Miller beer. With all due respect to Miller, I'd rather have the token!

Palm. This is another item I accidentally came across. I saw the distinct wood, saw it was from Hawaii, and thought… really? And the answer is yes. These tokens are incredibly light and have the distinct grain of palm wood to it. I've found two: one is an advertising token, and the other is a trade token.

Ivory Palm. The business tentree, situated in Vancouver, is an eco-friendly company that plants ten trees for each item purchased from their store. They send out tokens with codes on them that you can see where the trees are planted. Their tokens were originally made of zinc, but they switched over to ones made of ivory palm and sourced from a family-owned business in Panama.

Princess Maggie, Northern Ontario Royalty

By France D. Waychison

Maggie Leclair, born Maggie Buffalo, was one of those larger-than-life characters who left an indelible impression on those she met. Look at those eyes! Maggie was born on the shores of Nighthawk Lake, possibly not that far from the site of the Frederick House Massacre (see page 10), in the late nineteen century. Exactly when, who knows?

Maggie was a member of the Chippewa tribe, and a descendant of the only surviving family of the Frederick House Massacre.

Despite being well liked and being known as “the greatest huntress in Canada’s northland”, Maggie had a pretty hard life. She lost a first husband and 4 kids to illness, which she buried on an island at Kamiskotia Lake, 35 kms from downtown Timmins. She later married William Leclair but remained at Kamiskotia Lake.

It is said that she could skin a beaver faster than one can smoke a cigarette. She was a regular figure at sportsman’s shows, where she would sell pelts and demonstrate her hunting and skinning skills.

She apparently also had a deep respect for the law. The court services faced a public relations disaster at a trial when she was charged with illegally having moose meat, and our Maggie walked 35 kms from Kamiskotia to Timmins for a hearing at court, which was then cancelled. The population of Timmins was outraged! Maggie shrugged and just walked back home.

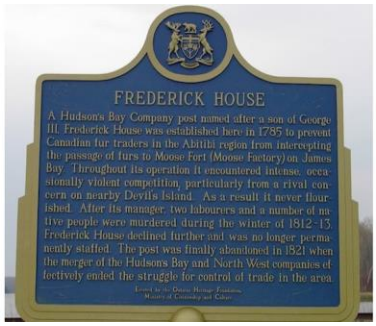
After her husband died, many well wishers from the community would visit her and try to get her to move closer to town. Maggie finally agreed to move to the Golden Manor, our city-run home for the aged. But it was difficult to contain a free spirit, and Princess Maggie would just often pick up, leave, and walk back to her cabin.

At the end, the forest won, and Maggie stayed put. But I am sure the population of Timmins kept an eye on her, since, as when she died, in 1965, Dr. Grant Sirola wrote: “Ministers, Paupers, and Mayors, and Bushmen, and Miners, and more-they might not have much in common, but all Princess Maggie adore”.

FREDERICK HOUSE MASSACRE by France D. Waychison

In 1785, the Hudson Bay Company built Frederick House Post on the southeast shore of Frederick House Lake. Its purpose was to gather furs to be sent north to the Hudson Bay Company posts on James Bay and then to England. Frederick House Lake is about 55 kms northeast of Timmins and is a north-flowing feeder of the Abitibi River, up to James Bay. In 1792, the North West Company built a Post on Devil's Island, offshore from the Frederick House Post. Competition for the furs between the Hudson Bay Company (HBC) and the North West Company (NWC) was keen.

By 1812, both Frederick House and The Cache (32 kms south of Timmins and 80 kms apart) were outposts of the HBC and just before Christmas of that year, three men left Frederick House for the Cache to pick up furs and trading goods. Records show they left The Cache on December 23 to return home. Nothing was heard from or about them until late March 1813, when two HBC men were sent from The Cache to investigate. What they discovered was a ransacked post and multiple dead bodies. The North West Company did not think anyone from its company could be involved but offered both its help and its suspicions about some Natives from Fort Abitibi, (North West Company territory) who were reported to be cannibals. However, no evidence of cannibalism has been found.



There is a possible explanation as of why this massacre happened. It is told by a member of the Buffalo family, as passed on from generation to generation: "Two of the Night Hawk Band of Indians had gone over to the Abitibi Lake Section and they invited some Indian friends over to spend New Years at the Hudson's Bay Post at Frederick House Lake. Three of them came over, man, wife, and son. "When they got to the lake, a storm was on. They all started to cross the lake with the man and son going ahead, and wife behind. Storm got worse and the man and son reached the post, but the woman never showed up. It stormed all night, so they did not go out to look for her until morning.

"The man in charge of the Post went with them and they found the woman frozen stiff on the ice. The two Indians from Abitibi Lake went crazy mad and blamed the Night Hawk Spirit for killing the woman and then they thought it was a plan made up to kill them. So, the Indians killed the Hudson Bay Trader and went back to the Post and killed his wife."

"After they had killed those, they took possession of the Post which was located on a hill giving a good view of all trails to the Post. As soon as they would see anyone coming, they would get ready and shoot them coming up the hill. Then they would drag the bodies into a root house at the foot of the hill. In this way they continued until inhabitants and visitors were all shot.

"After killing them all, the Indians remained at the Post and lived in luxury with lots of eats and lots of rum. Those responsible for the massacre were never caught.

We will never know how many people died at and around the post between December 1812 and March 1813. History estimates the number of deaths as between 15 and 25. The post was never fully operational after that and was definitively closed in 1821.

P.S. Seen this before? These two last stories also appeared in the June 2020 edition of the CN Journal (So your memory is very good!) ***France***